

Mr. Reid Lifset
Yale University
School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
Program on Solid Waste Policy
Sage Hall
205 Prospect Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511-2189

Dear Mr. Lifset:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 1999 expressing your views on United States participation on the European Union's two proposed waste requirements; specifically, the Waste from Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Directive and the Batteries and Accumulators Directive.

I agree that it is important to include the environmental perspective in developing a U.S. Government position on the two proposed European Union requirements. In fact, the Office of Solid Waste (OSW) has already provided comments to the U.S. Trade Representatives Office on U.S. Government communications concerning the EU proposals on electronic and electrical waste and on battery waste. In addition, an OSW staff person met with a representative of the EU environment program in May for direct EPA-to-EU discussions on both directives. Thus, I am happy to inform you that the OSW has raised the level of the Environmental Protection Agency's involvement in providing environmental input on the two EU waste proposals.

I hope I have addressed the issues you raised. Please feel free to contact Rick Picardi of my staff if you have any questions. Rick can be reached at 703-308-8879.

Sincerely,

Timothy Fields, Jr.
Assistant Administrator

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